

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOR OES/SCI AND EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CONSTRUCTION OF FERTILIZER FACILITIES

REF: A) STATE 189337; B) MOSCOW 11255; C) MOSCOW 10892

1. METAL'NIKOV, SCST, TODAY INFORMED SCIOFF THAT THE HOST MINISTRY FOR THE SUBJECT DELEGATION, DESPITE REQUESTS AND PRESSURE FROM SCST, INSISTS ON A TWO-WEEK DELAY (TO 1 SEPTEMBER) FOR START OF VISIT. METAL'NIKOV STATED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS ONE OF ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THREE MINISTRIES.

2. SCIOFF REPLIED THAT US SIDE WAS WELL AWARE OF "THREE-MINISTRIES PROBLEM." ON THE OTHER HAND, RECENT SOVIET REQUEST FOR DELEGATION LIST (REF B) MADE US THINK SOVIETS WERE READY TO RECEIVE DELEGATION, AND THAT POSTPONEMENT WAS AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE.

3. SCIOFF STRESSED TO METAL'NIKOV THAT CANCELLATIONS, AT LEAST IN PART DUE TO THE UNCERTANINTIES OF THE HOST PROGRAM, HAVE ALREADY CUT US DELEGATION SIZE TO SIX-PLUS INTERPRETER; SCIOFF EXPLAINED TO METAL'NIKOV THAT THERE COULD BE NO GUARANTEE, WITH THIS LAST-MINUTE CHANGE, THAT ANY OF THE US
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DELEGATION COULD COME. FYI. MURZANYEVA NORMALLY HANDLES THIS

EXCHANGE IN SCST. FACT THAT METAL'NIKOV (AYKAZYAN ON LEAVE) CALLED INSTEAD OF MURZANYEVA INDICATES SCST VIEWS MATTER SERIOUSLY.

4. EMBASSY SEES FOUR OPTIONS:

- A. ACCEPT POSTPONEMENT (RESCHEDULING) TO 1 SEPTEMBER AND CARRY OUT VISIT WITH THOSE USDEL MEMBERS ABLE TO REARRANGE SCHEDULES.
- B. INSIST THAT VISIT EITHER TAKE PLACE AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED, OR BE POSTPONED TO DATE LATER THAN 1 SEPTEMBER, ALLOWING SOVIET SIDE FULL TIME TO BE READY AND USDEL MEMBERS TIME TO RE-ARRANGE THEIR SCHEDULES.
- C. INSIST THAT VISIT TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED, OR BE CANCELLED.
- D. CANCEL VISIT.

5. ACCEPTABILITY OF OPTION A WOULD REQUIRE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN SCHEDULES OF USDELS PLUS SWALLOWING NASTY-TASTING PILL OF LAST MINUTE POSTPONEMENT. OPTION B WOULD ELIMINATE SOVIET "LACK-OF-TIME" EXCUSE AND PROBABLY ALLOW FULLER US PARTICIPATION THAN A. OPTION C ESCALATES SERIOUSNESS OF MATTER, AND WOULD DEMONSTRATE STRONG US DISPLEASURE IN HANDLING OF THIS EXCHANGE. OPTION D IS PREEMPTORY AND, IN EMBASSY VIEW, UNWARRANTED AT THIS TIME.

6. COMMENT. SINCE COMPLETE CANCELLATION OF VISIT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY DOOM EXCHANGE, IT WOULD BE A PORTENTIOUS STEP IN THAT "CANCELLED" EXCHANGE COULD HAVE LARGER PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT IN OTHER AREAS DURING PEIODD OF POST-ASTP, PRE-SUMMIT GOOD WORKING RELATIONS. ON OTHER HAND, SOVIETS SHOULD HAVE IMPRESSED UPON THEM THAT LAST-MINUTE CHANGES IN SCHEDULE, WHILE PERHAPS WORKABLE IN THEIR OWN BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM, CREAT HAVOC IN THE US, AND THAT THEY CANNOT BE PERMITTED. EMBASSY SUPPORTS OPTION B.

7. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
STOESSEL

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